HF Happenings 535

The SARL Antenna Defence Fund Reaches 10% of its Target

The SARL Antenna defence fund, launched last weekend, has already reached almost 10% of its R50 000 target. The fund currently stands at R19 550. A list of donors and details on why the SARL has launched the fund and why you should contribute can be found on www.sarl.org.za. Clubs are encouraged to follow the Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society, which made a handsome donation the past week. Thanks to KARTS and all radio amateurs who have thus far contributed. Your support for amateur radio is much appreciated.

ZS Worked All Grid Squares Award

Congratulations to Pieter Jacobs, ZS6XT, for achieving the top ZS WAGS award for contacting all 83 grid squares in South Africa. So far only Pieter and Pierre, ZS6A (ex ZS6BB), have achieved the highest level of this award.

The ZS Worked All Grid Squares (ZS WAGS) award was created in 2008 to encourage local on-air activity, and the Sandton Amateur Radio Club currently manages the award.

Over 50 awards have been granted since inception, and so far, only two amateurs have reached the maximum of 83 grids. The full rules and current rankings may be obtained on the website of the Sandton ARC at www.zs6stn.org.za.

The objective of the award is to contact as many of the South African grid squares as possible. The "Hunter" award ranges from the entry-level 25 grids up to the maximum of 83 grids, and an award can also be endorsed for specific bands or modes of operation, such as 40 m only, satellite, QRP, etc. The "Activator" award is also granted to amateurs who make themselves available for at least 10 contacts from any of the less-populated grid squares.

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Iron Ham Contest

Drawing inspiration from the Ironman Triathlon races, the Araucaria DX Group introduces the WW Iron Ham Contest, a competition that combines the main operating modes (Phone, CW and RTTY) into one single contest to be held on 29 and 30 December (from 12:00 UTC on Saturday to 11:59 UTC on Sunday). The 24-hour contest is organised to have 8 hours of operation on each mode in periods no shorter than one hour. Complete details can be found at www.araucariadx.com/ih/

The 100th registers for ILLW

For the 2013 International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, the 100th registration comes from the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club, Emden club station DL0EM at the Campen Lighthouse, on the North Sea Coast of Germany. Active since 1891 with Germany's most powerful lighthouse lamp, near the village of Campen, in the mouth of the Ems estuary, it has a lattice tower construction standing 65 metres tall.

The International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, an annual fun and friendly event sponsored by the Ayr Radio Group, is always on the third full weekend of August. The basic objective is to promote public awareness of the historic structures and their need for preservation, promotion of amateur radio and to foster international goodwill.

So far, 22 countries have registered. If you would like to know more or register online for the next event on 17 and 18 August 2013, visit the website illw.net

YASME Excellence Awards and Supporting Grants

The Yasme Excellence Award is awarded to individuals who through their own service, creativity, effort and dedication have made a significant contribution to amateur radio. The contribution may be in recognition of technical, operating or organizational achievement, as all three are necessary for amateur radio to grow and prosper. The Yasme Excellence Award is in the form of a cash grant and an individually engraved crystal globe.

The Board of Directors of The Yasme Foundation is pleased to announce the award of the Yasme Excellence Award to the following individuals:

✓   George Fremin, K5TR, Tree Tyree, N6TR, Trey Garlough, N5KO, and Scott Neader, KA9FOX, for their contributions to many infrastructure projects that benefit the amateur community at large.

December

1 – World Aids Day
2 – SARL Digital Contest
2 Dec to 6 Jan – Garden of Lights, the garden of Vespasian, Peermont D'oreale Grande Hotel
3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
7 – Schools close
8 and 9 – ARRL 10 metre Contest
16 – Day of Reconciliation
17 - Public Holiday
17 to 22 – Blaauklippen Family Christmas Market, Stellenbosch
25 – Christmas Day
26 – Day of Goodwill
29 to 31 – Vic Falls Carnival 2012, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
31 – New Year's Festival of Lights, Nieu-Bethesda

January 2013

1 – New Year's Day
9 – Inland schools open
12 and 13 – Hunting Lions in the Air
16 – Coastal schools open
18 to 20 – PEARS National VHF/UHF contest
19 – Wild Flower Day, Chrissiemeer
26 – Summer QRP Sprint
26 – Draf and Trap Night Race, Ottosdal
31 - Last day for submission of nominations for councillors for the next term and motions for the 2013 AGM

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✓   Mark Spencer, WA8SME, for his instrumental work in the ARRL Teachers Institute and other training efforts, development of PIC microcontroller projects and books for amateurs, and work with leaders in student and scientific teams applying amateur radio to scientific projects and experiments.

✓   Champ Muangamphun, E21EIC, and Pornchai Semjang, HS2JFW, for leadership in the Thai amateur community, especially during the recent flooding which helped open the door to the new Thai HF licensing and enhanced the stature of amateur radio with the Thai government.

✓   Tomas Hood, NW7US, and Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, for sustained education of the amateur community regarding propagation, solar and geomagnetic physics.

✓   David Freese, W1HKJ, for creating and maintaining the freeware software package FLDIGI, probably the most widely used digital communication software in amateur radio and a frequent gateway for new amateurs who are more familiar with computer-based communications.

✓   Dean Straw, N6BV, for his contributions to amateur antenna system design and the development of software tools such as HFTA to optimise system design.

✓   Peter Martinez, G3PLX, and Pawel Jalocha, SP9VRC, for the development of PSK31, a widely used digital mode entirely invented by amateurs that is enabling many amateurs to successfully use HF with very modest stations.

✓   Arie Kleingeld, PA3A, Ad Van Ginneken, PA8AD, and Arie, PA3AN, for their sustained contributions to the Mercy Ships Project.

        Thank you for your fine work and congratulations to you all!

The Board of Directors also announces supporting grants to the following:
✓   WRTC 2014 www.wrtc2014.org
✓   World Wide Radio Operators Foundation www.wwrof.org
✓   Club Log www.clublog.org
✓   NCDXF Beacon Project www.ncdxf.org
✓   Yasme Scholarships (administered by ARRL) www.arrl.org
✓   Amateur Radio Association of Kosovo (SHARK)

        The Yasme Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organised to conduct scientific and educational projects related to Amateur Radio, including DXing (long distance communication) and the introduction and promotion of Amateur Radio in developing countries. For additional information about The Yasme Foundation, visit our website at www.yasme.org.

        Board of Directors: Wayne Mills, N7NG, Director and President; Fred Laun, K3ZO, Director and Vice-President; Rusty Epps, W6OAT, Director and Treasurer; Kip Edwards, W6SZN, Director and Secretary; Martti Laine, OH2BH, Director; Mac McHenry, W6BSY, Director; Ward Silver, N0AX, Director; Robert Vallio, W6RGG, Director

DX Marathon

        The "CQ Magazine" invites everybody to its annual "DX Marathon" again. We need to work as many countries and areas within one calendar year. No QSLs needed. See also: http://www.dxmarathon.com

African DX

Kenya, 5Z4 and Somalia, T5. Starting 10 December, Roger, LA4GHA, who works for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in East Africa, will be active as 5Z4/LA4GHA from Nairobi, Kenya, and from Garowe, Somalia (license not yet issued) for the next two years. Activity will be on 160 - 10 meters using CW, SSB and the Digital modes, as time permits. QSL

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via LA4GHA, by the Bureau or direct. Look for more information to be forthcoming. (Thanks Tom, LA4LN)

African Islands

Seychelles, S7. Tom, DL5NEN, and his XYL Claudia, DO5NEN, will be active again from La Digue from 15 to 28 December using the same call sign, S79NEN, like on their honeymoon in March. QSL via DO5NEN. *(Who says amateur radio and honeymoons cannot be done together!)*

Seychelles, S7. Werner, DC8QT, will be active as S79QT from Mahe (AF-024) between 19 December and 7 January 2013. Activity will be on 40 – 10 metres using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. He will use an IC-7000 with 100 watts into a vertical antenna. QSL via his home call sign, direct or by the Bureau.

Special Event Stations

Italy. The special call sign II1M will be activated by ARI Chivasso (IQ1GJ) from 14 to 16 December to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the first trans-Atlantic radio contact between Glace Bay in Canada and Poldhu in Great Britain. The phases of this historic event will be reconstructed on 15 December around 14:00 UTC by VO1AAA and GB2GM with the participation of Princess Elettra Marconi in Rome. QSL via IQ1GJ. See http://digilander.libero.it/arichivasso or http://www.gb2gm.org.uk

The Christmas special event station II0XMAS is active until 1 January 2013. Antonello, IZ0VHY, is responsible and wishes everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. QSL via M0OXO. See http://www.m0oxo.com/oqrs

Finland. Although there still is no separate DXCC entity "North Pole", Santa Claus lives in cold and harsh conditions under the northern lights in the region of Santa Claus in Lapland in northern Finland. The frozen elves (amateurs) Martti, OH2BH, Rami, OH3BHL, Juha, OH8NC, Kimmo, OH9MDV, and Aaro, OH9RJ, are on the air as OH9SCL (QSL via OH9AB) and OF9X (QSL via OH2BH) from Muonio. If you work both stations, you can apply for a certificate via e-mail to of9x@sral.fi. This certificate can be issued also in the name of children or grandchildren. A discount will be granted during a visit in the coming year.
See also http://www.harriniva.fi/en, http://www.santaclauslive.com, http://justin.tv/of9x_tv, http://posti.fi/english/thepostsservices/salesnetwork/santaclausmainpostoffice/santasownpostoffice.html and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rovaniemi_Airport#Santa_Claus_Official_Airport

The Netherlands. The Christmas special event stations, PA12XMAS, PB12XMAS and PD12XMAS, are activated for the fourth time in a row until 1 January 2013, with focus on SSB on 10 and 12 m. QSL via PB5X. See http://www.CQfriends.com/pb12xmas

Other DX

Afghanistan, T6. Vyacheslav, RL3AR, will be active as T6T from Kabul until the summer 2014. Activity will be on 80 - 10 metres using CW, SSB and PSK. QSL via RL3AR, by the Bureau or eQSL.

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Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 11 to 18 December 2012.

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint
01:30 - 03:30 UTC 12 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Key Type Mult: 2x if straight key, 1.5x if bug, 1x if other
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 15 December 2012
E-mail logs to: naqcc33@windstream.net
Upload log at: http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html
Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA
Find rules at: http://naqcc.info/sprint201212.html

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 - 03:30 UTC 12 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op – fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 13 December 2012
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 12 December and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 13 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 15 December 2012

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Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/onair.html

NAQCC-EU Monthly Sprint
18:00 - 20:00 UTC 12 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, country and NAQCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: Each country in Europe; First country in each continent worked other than Europe
Key Type Mult: 2x if straight key, 1.5x if bug, 1x if other
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 20:00 UTC 15 December 2012
E-mail logs to: submitlog@naqcc-eu.org
Upload log at: http://www.naqcc-eu.org/autologger/
Mail logs to: M Ireland MW3YMY, Pen-y-Gadlas, Ffordd Bryniau, Meliden, Prestatyn, Denbigh-shire LL19 8RD, UK
Find rules at: http://naqcc-eu.org/SprintHelp/SprintRules.pdf

QRP Fox Hunt
02:00 UTC-03:30 UTC 14 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op – fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 03:30 UTC 15 December 2012
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 14 December
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 16 December 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

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Russian 160-Metre Contest
20:00 - 24:00 UTC 14 December
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 160 m Only
Classes: Single Op; Multi-Op
Exchange: Rus: RS(T) and Oblast code; non-Rus: RS(T) and serial no
Work stations: Once per mode
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each DXCC entity once; Each Oblast once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 30 December 2012
E-mail logs to: contest@radio.ru
Upload log at: http://ua9qcq.com/contests/robot.php
Mail logs to: Radio Magazine, 10 Seliverstov per., 107045 Moscow, Russia
Find rules at: http://www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index2012.shtml

Feld Hell Sprint
00:00 - 24:00 UTC 15 December
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 22 December 2012
E-mail logs to: kj8o@wowway.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprint-rules

OK DX RTTY Contest
00:00 - 24:00 UTC 15 December
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band – low or high; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op; SWL
Max operating hours: 24 hours
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts
Exchange: RST and CQ Zone
QSO Points: 10 – 20 m: 1 point same continent, 2 points different continent; 40 – 80 m: 3 points
same continent, 6 points different continent
Multipliers: DXCC Countries, once per band; OK stations, once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (DXCC mults and OK mults)
Submit logs by: 15 January 2013
E-mail logs to: okrtty@crk.cz
Mail logs to: (none)

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Find rules at: http://www.crk.cz/ENG/DXCONTE.HTM

Croatian CW Contest
14:00 UTC 15 December to 14:00 UTC 16 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Single Band – low or high; Multi-Single
Max operating hours: 24 hours
Max power: HP: 100 or more watts; LP: <100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: Own continent: 2 points 40 – 160 m, 1 point 10 – 20 m; Other continents: 6 points 40 – 160 m, 3 points 10 – 20 m; 9A stations: 10 points 40 – 160 m, 6 points 10 – 20 m
Multipliers: DXCC/WAE Countries, once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 15 January 2013
E-mail logs to: 9acw@9acw.org
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.9acw.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47:rules-2009&catid=39:english&Itemid=66

ARRL Rookie CW Roundup
18:00 - 23:59 UTC 16 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: Single Op Rookie; Multi-Op Rookie; Non-Rookies
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name, 2-digit year first licensed and state, province, XE area or DX
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-rookie; 2 points per QSO with rookie
Multipliers: Each US state and DC once; Each VE province once; Each XE call area once; One DX once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 19 December 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at: http://www.b4h.net/arrlrr/rr_scoresubmission.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

QRP ARCI Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint
20:00 - 23:59 UTC 16 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: All Bands; Single Band; High Bands; Low Bands; Multi-Op; DX
Max operating hours: 4 hours
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and ARCI number or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: ARCI Member: 5 points; Non-Member Different Continent: 4 points; Non-Member Same Continent: 2 points
Bonus points per band: 2 000 for HB xmtr, 3 000 for HB rcvr, 5 000 for HB transcvr

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Bonus points: 5 000 for battery power portable with temporary antenna (not once per band)
Multipliers: States, once per band; VE Provinces, once per band; Countries, once per band
Power Mult: x 1 >5 W, x 7 1 – 5 W, x 10 250 mW – 1 W, x 15 55 – 250 mW, x 20 <55 mW
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 30 December 2012
E-mail logs to: contest@qrparci.org
Mail logs to: ARCI Holiday Spirits, c/o Brian Campbell, VE3MGY, PO Box 135, 46485 Sparta Line, Sparta, Ontario N0L 2H0, Canada
Find rules at: http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/8401/118/

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest
02:00 - 04:00 UTC 17 December
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10m
Classes: Single Band; All Band
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23 December 2012
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/

Next Week's Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 19 December
QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 21 December
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 21 December
AGB-Party Contest, 21:00 - 24:00 UTC 21 December
Lighthouse Christmas Lights QSO Party, 00:01 UTC 22 December to 23:59 UTC 1 January
RAEM Contest, 00:00 - 11:59 UTC 23 December

History This Week

A look back at events that made history this week - compiled by the Summerland Amateur Radio Club of Lismore, NSW and Dennis, ZS4BS. The week starting Monday 10 December 2012.

1839 - First celestial photograph (the moon) made in the USA by John Draper of New York
1849 - William Bond obtains the first photograph of the Moon through a telescope
1890 - Telephone service introduced in Tokyo and Yokahama, Japan.
1903 - Wright Brothers make their first flight at Kittyhawk
1914 – The American Radio Relay League is founded by Hiram Percy Maxim
1928 - First autogiro (predecessor of the helicopter) flight in the USA

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1934 - First streamlined steam locomotive introduced in Albany, NY
1965 - Largest newspaper - Sunday New York Times at 946 pages and priced at 50¢

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News and Southgate ARC

Prettige Kerstdagen en een voorspoedig nieuw jaar
Geseënde Kersfees en 'n voorspoedige nuwe jaar
Frohe Weihnachten und ein erfolgreiches Neues Jahr
Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year
Весела Коледа и успешна Нова Година
God Jul och Gott Nytt År
عيد ميلاد سعيد وسنة جديدة مزدهرة في عام
Sretan Božić i uspješnu Novu godinu
Krismasi Njema na Mafanikio ya Mwaka Mpya
Joyeux Noël et une nouvelle année prospère
Καλά Χριστούγεννα και μια ευημερούσα νέο έτος
Feliz Navidad y un Próspero Año Nuevo
Feliz Natal e um Próspero Ano Novo
Счастливого Рождества и Нового Года
God jul og et fremgangsrikt nytt år
Linksmų Kalėdų ir klesti Naujieji Metai
Hyvää Joulua ja menestyksekästä Uutta Vuotta
Шчаслівага Калядаў і Новага Года
Crăciun Fericit și un An Nou prosper
חנוכה שמחה
Kellemes Karácsonyi Ünnepeket és Sikeres Új Évet
Wesołych Świąt i Nowego Roku Prosperous
Häid jõule ja edukat uut aastat
Buon Natale e un prospero Anno Nuovo
Veselé Vianoce a úspešný nový rok
Срећан Божић и просперитетну Нову годину

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